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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/617,480	07/17/2000	Fredrik Olsson	3COM-2366.MCD.US.P	7568

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EXAMINER

SEFCHECK, GREGORY B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2662

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DATE MAILED: 09/29/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/617,480

Applicant(s)

OLSSON ET AL

Examiner

Gregory B Sefcheck

Art Unit

2662

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 July 2000 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "Relay 508" has been used to designate both Relay 2 (Fig. 7, 508) and Relay 3 (Fig. 7, 506). It appears that "Relay 506" should be referenced in the third/last row of Fig. 8.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

- Pg. 5, line 1 – "provides a" is unnecessarily repeated.

Appropriate correction is required.

- Pg. 20, line 20 – "relay 508" is referenced twice. It appears that the second reference to "508" should be changed to "507". However, the objection to Fig. 8, above, compounds this problem, resulting in greater confusion when referring to Relays 506, 507 and 508.

Clarification of both the specification and drawings relating to these references is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-5, 8-10, and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Adler et al (US006504851B1), hereafter Adler.

5. In regards to Claim 1 (apparatus for allowing multiple connection types comprising a peripheral component and a receptacle utilizing at least one of a plurality of electrical lines as a signal line for more than one type of connection),

Abler discloses an interface adapter card (apparatus, peripheral component) having a connector (receptable) that automatically detects which one of a plurality of possible connection types is being received at the receptacle (Col. 1, lines 15-16; Col. 4, lines 47-50).

The receptacle accepts a plurality of electrical lines from the connector. The electrical lines are adapted and used as a signal line for more than one connection type (Fig. 1; Col. 4/5, lines 61-30).

6. In regards to Claim 2 and 9 (apparatus comprising a plurality of electrical pathways and switching logic adapted to switch the electrical lines between the pathways),

Adler discloses an interface adapter card (apparatus) covering all the limitations of the parent claim.

Referring to Fig. 6, Adler further discloses the card comprising a plurality of electrical pathways between the connector and the plurality of transceivers. Switching the lines between the pathways is controlled by the Protocol Selection Logic 220 of the apparatus. Fig. 4 and the specification (Col. 7-9, lines 52-15) describe how this logic controls the switching of the receptacle's electrical connecting lines to the various pathways.

7. In regards to Claim 3 and 10 (apparatus comprising determination logic for proper connection type),

Adler discloses an interface adapter card (apparatus) covering all the limitations of the parent claims.

Adler further discloses determining the connection type being received at the receptacle while sequentially stepping through the selection logic process of Fig. 4 (steps 308, 316, 324, 332, 340, and 350). This determination process is also described in the specification (Col. 7-9, lines 52-15).

8. In regards to Claim 4 and 13 (three choices of connection type),

Adler discloses an interface adapter card (apparatus) covering all the limitations of the parent claims.

Adler further discloses the apparatus as adapting to one of three possible connection types (Fig. 4 & 6; Col. 4, line 48).

9. In regards to Claim 8 (apparatus for allowing multiple connection types comprising a peripheral component and a receptacle utilizing at least one of a plurality of received electrical lines as a signal line for more than one type of connection without the use of an intermediate connection device),

Abler discloses an interface adapter card (apparatus, peripheral component) having a connector (receptacle) that automatically detects which one of a plurality of possible connection types is being received at the receptacle (Col. 1, lines 15-16; Col. 4, lines 47-50).

The receptacle accepts a plurality of electrical lines from the connector. The electrical lines are adapted and used as a signal line for more than one connection type (Fig. 1; Col. 4/5, lines 61-30). Because all possible connection types use a standardized connector, this detection can be done without the use of an intermediate connector device (Fig. 1, 6; Col. 1, lines 44-47).

10. In regards to Claim 12 (method of allowing multiple connection types comprising the providing of: a peripheral component, a receptacle having connecting lines utilized as signal lines for more than one type of connection, a switching of the connecting lines between a plurality of pathways, a determining of the type of connection, and an establishing of the appropriate pathway for the determined connection),

Adler discloses an adapter card (peripheral component) that allows multiple connection types to be made to the same connector (receptacle).

The receptacle accepts a plurality of electrical lines from the connector. The electrical lines are adapted and used as a signal line for more than one connection type (Fig. 1; Col. 4/5, lines 61-30).

The connecting lines are switched between a plurality of pathways (Fig. 6).

Through sequentially switching the lines between the pathways, the type of connection being received is determined (Fig. 4; Col. 7-9, lines 52-15).

The proper pathway for the determined connection type is then established from the pre-defined connecting lines at the receptacle (Fig. 1 & 4).

11. In regards to Claims 5 and 14 (determining connection type to be a LAN),

Adler discloses an interface adapter card (apparatus) covering all the limitations of the parent claims.

Adler discloses this card for determining a LAN connection (Abstract; throughout specification).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

12. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

13. Claims 6-7, 11, and 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adler.

14. In regards to Claims 6 and 15 (connection is modem), as well as Claims 7, 11, and 16 (connection is ISDN),

Adler discloses an interface adapter card (apparatus) covering all the limitations of the parent claims.

Adler does not show utilization of the adapter card for determining a modem or ISDN connection.

The method and apparatus of Adler is performed/utilized by switching the connecting lines of the connector (receptable) by carefully and non-disruptively ordering the protocol detection steps. Separate and independent protocol transceivers, MACs, status & control, and storage units for each connection possibility are utilized while switching between pathways to determine the connection type being received. It would be simple to implement detection of other connection types over the same standardized connector by replacing any of the independent detection circuits with a detection circuit for another connection type.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the apparatus and method of Adler for determining modem and ISDN connections. It is well known that modem and ISDN connections can use the standardized RJ-45 connector disclosed by Adler, as shown in the specification of the applicant on pg. 14, line 6. Modifying the Adler's apparatus and method for determining modem and ISDN connections as well as various LAN-type connections would allow one interface card to be used for reception of more/all connection types/protocols from a common connector, thus reducing necessary internetworking components and cost to the user.

Conclusion

15. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Park (US006434123B1) discloses an apparatus and method for broadband data communication
- Edem et al (US005586117A) discloses a method and apparatus which allows devices with multiple protocol capabilities to configure to a common protocol configuration
- Slykhouse et al (US005574722A) discloses a protocol independent switch
- De Nijs et al (US005568525A) discloses a system and method for connection of multiple protocol terminals

- Abraham et al (US005530842A) discloses a generic backplane system which is configurable to serve different network access methods simultaneously
- Bailey et al (US005497460A) discloses a system and method for determining network connectivity
- Geyer et al (US005442629A) discloses a token ring speed detector
- Wong et al (US005249183A) discloses an interfacing unit for local area networks
- Kobayashi et al (US005142528A) discloses a protocol selector and protocol selection method

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory B Sefcheck whose telephone number is 703-305-0633. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hassan Kizou can be reached on 703-305-4744. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

9-16-2003
GBS


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